



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Antonio D. Burley, Bobbi Jo Cini, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Rosanne Kotowski, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Lian Obrey, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Conley called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
26 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Rep. Adams, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Morton, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Powers, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Turnbull and Rep. Neugent
Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Burley, Rep. Cini, Rep. Heede, Rep. Espada, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Luck, Rep. Longino, Rep. Massett, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Groton Town Mayor Rita Schmidt, Assistant Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly and Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by a Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Adams. The vote on approval of the amended minutes carried unanimously.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Rita Schmidt, 12 Bank Street, Mystic, noted the end of the current Town Council and RTM. She thanked the members for their diligence and attention to detail and for making a difference in the Town of Groton.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Reps. Burley, Espada, Heede, Longino, Massett, Williams and Wilson notified the Town Clerk they are not able to attend the meeting.

The Moderator read an email from Rep. Espada stating he enjoyed working with the members of the RTM.

Moderator Conley referred Town Council Referral 2015-0232 to the Finance Committee. She expects the new Finance Committee to be set up at the December RTM meeting and they will be report back as soon as possible for a vote.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of October 31, 2015 (unaudited, not updated until after audit is completed) is approximately \$9.1 million which is 7.3% of the FYE 2016 General Fund Adopted Budget. The General Contingency amount for FYE 2016 was appropriated at \$550,000 and no transfers are pending approval. The Capital Reserve Fund balance as of October 31, 2015 is estimated at \$984,039 (unaudited).

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manger highlighted various items from the Town Manager News including the applications for energy assistance. Residents wishing to apply for this program should call Groton Human Services to schedule an appointment. He mentioned that the magazine "Business in Focus" has selected Groton for a business development promotional story for its December edition. He also mentioned the Economic Development staff has partnered with LBI to complete "Design Readiness Assessments." A group funded by the Department of Defense, their goal is to bridge the gap between manufacturers and designers and to bring tools for intellectual property, education and investment. He asked for volunteers for the Thanksgiving and December Holiday distribution at the Human Services building on November 20th and December 18th from 9:00 a.m through 4:30 p.m. Volunteers are also needed for the "Fill the Truck" campaign where the Groton Town Police Department partners with the Salvation Army to collect donated toys at the Groton Wal-Mart on November 27th and 28th and December 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th. He added that there was a "Save the Date" from the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce for the annual dinner and silent auction on December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. at the Mystic Marriot Hotel honoring the United States Navy and Tony Manfredi of the Mystic Fire Department. He also mentioned a benefit dinner for Poquonnock Bridge Firefighter Jeffrey Douchette on Wednesday December 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Groton Elks Lodge.

Rep. McDermott noted that the Town Managers News had reported that the Town Police Department has just created a Facebook page and asked if the City Police Department has one. Rep. Parker confirmed that they do.

G. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reported on Development Project Status for various projects in the Town of Groton. He gave an overview of projects under construction, as well as projects within the permitting process and various projects that are in the discussion phase.

Rep. McDermott noted that a recent Connecticut Magazine survey had ranked Groton well in Cultural and Leisure activities but not as well on Economic Development and Education. He asked Mr. Oefinger to comment on this survey.

Mr. Oefinger responded that he had not studied this particular survey and added that he would familiarize himself with it prior to the next meeting.

Rep. Newsome inquired about the status of Mardie Lane.

Mr. Oefinger referred to the November 2015 Town of Groton Development Project Status Report. He gave a summary of the history of Mardie Lane and mentioned that currently there are discussions regarding a zone change from RS-12 to a multi-family zone. This change would allow the construction of apartments to be built.

Rep. Swindell commented on the Development Project Status Report and requested that in the future all projects show a dollar value amount and note if any increase in value was created for tax purposes and the grand list. In addition, he would also like to see the number of jobs being created on this report.

Mr. Oefinger responded that the information comes from Economic Development and he would ask to Director Reiner for those changes to be included in the report.

Rep. Parker inquired if there were any plans for the Groton Cinema.

The Town Manager reported that there have been discussions with Atty. Shapiro and the owner of the building. He added that he is not aware of any definitive plans at this time.

Rep. Loughlin expressed his concern over the empty lot on East Main Street which has been vacant for the last 13 years.

Mr. Oefinger acknowledged that this was a continuing topic of discussion. He noted the structure to be built on that site will house residential units and must meet all flood requirements. He continued to say that developers were made aware that time is of the essence.

H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

I. LIAISON REPORTS

None.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman DeMatto

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

No meeting, no report.

K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

None.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

Moderator Conley thanked all the members of the current RTM for their attendance, patience and hard work to make the Town of Groton work. She looks forward to welcoming the new members joining the new RTM in December.

2015-0277

2016 RTM Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2016 RTM MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, Freedom of Information Statutes require filing a calendar-year schedule of meetings with the Town Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has met regularly on the second Wednesday of each

month, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby approves the meeting schedule for 2016 as follows:

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center, 102 Newtown Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340.

A motion was made by Rep. Conley, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Dawn G. Rahilly, Assistant Town Clerk

Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II